

Lake County Sheriff's Office

Christopher Covelli, Sergeant
Public Information Officer
Desk: 847.377.4180
Fax: 847.984.5738
Date: April 30, 2020



25 S. Martin Luther King Jr., Ave
Waukegan, Illinois 60087

www.lakecountyil.gov/sheriff

John D. Idleburg
Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE

UPDATE: Three of Nine Inmates Test Positive

On April 25, 2020, the jail's medical provider conducted COVID-19 tests for the nine inmates who were housed with the previously released inmate who tested positive, this housing unit is known as 6T. Late in the day on April 29, 2020, the results came back for eight of those inmates. Five tested negative, three tested positive, and one is pending.

Initially, there were ten inmates housed in 6T with the previously released inmate who tested positive. On April 17, 2020, one of those inmates was released on bail, and was not displaying signs or symptoms of illness when discharged.

No inmates have been moved into 6T or from 6T to other housing units within the jail. Of the remaining nine inmates, the five who tested negative are being moved out of 6T to the 14-day new-inmate quarantine area. The three who tested positive will remain housed in 6T, along with the inmate whose test results have not returned.

The four inmates remaining in 6T are in good overall conditions and are not displaying symptoms of illness. They will continue to be closely monitored by medical staff.

The Lake County Jail continues following aggressive prevention and mitigation protocols. Sheriff's Administration is working closely with the Lake County Health Department and the jail's medical provider in continued efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the Lake County Jail. All of the jail's inmates receive medical care and are routinely evaluated by medical staff while in custody at the Lake County Jail.

Jail Continues Mitigation Efforts After Previously Released Inmate Tests Positive for COVID-19 (issued April 17, 2020)

In the evening on April 16, 2020, the Lake County Sheriff's Office received confirmation from the Lake County

Health Department that a previously discharged inmate tested positive for novel coronavirus COVID-19. The inmate, a 28-year-old male of Des Plaines, was remanded to the Lake County Jail on February 27, 2020, and discharged on April 13, 2020, following a plea agreement.

Beginning April 8, 2020, the inmate complained of flu-like symptoms. He was seen several times by the jail's medical provider and his mild symptoms stabilized. When the inmate was discharged on April 13, 2020, his temperature registered normal, and he didn't have or report any sickness symptoms.

On April 15, 2020, the inmate checked into a Cook County hospital and was tested for COVID-19, the test came back positive. The inmate was discharged from the hospital shortly after receiving the test results.

A number of protocols have been enacted since February to reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 entering the jail as well as enhanced mitigation procedures should inmates feel ill. Thus far, these mitigation procedures have been overall successful. These include:

- Enhanced medical screening for inmates and employees entering the jail
- Increased cleanings of jail pods
- Minimization of inmates moving from pod to pod
- Establishing a medical segregation area for inmates with mild illness symptoms
 - Any inmate experiencing illness wears a mask while quarantined
- Worked with Courts & criminal justice partners to establish electronic bond hearings, versus in-person hearings
 - Inmates who receive a recognizance bond at their initial hearing never enter the jail's general population area
- Utilizing PPEs for all jail staff
- Utilized vacant housing pods to spread the distance between inmates
- All newly remanded inmates are housed out of general population for 14 days for medical evaluation before being moved to general population

There are ten other inmates who were housed in the same pod of the former inmate who tested positive. None of those inmates are currently experiencing any symptoms of illness, however, they are being closely monitored by medical staff.

Currently, there are three inmates housed in the medical unit. Two of those inmates were remanded to the jail on April 16, 2020, one of them has been diagnosed with an upper respiratory infection and the other had a slightly elevated temperature. The other inmate was a previously housed inmate who complained of stomach pains. Those inmates are in good condition. No other current jail inmates are experiencing a fever or any other symptoms of illness. Per the guidelines of the CDC and Illinois Department of Public Health, COVID-19 testing of asymptomatic individuals is not recommended.

If an inmate's health begins to significantly decline, an inmate experiences a medical emergency, or their medical care is beyond the capabilities of the medical provider, the inmate would be immediately transported to an area hospital for treatment.

The Lake County Jail continues to follow all CDC, Illinois Department of Public Health, and Lake County Health Department guidelines. The jail's medical provider continues to work closely with the Lake County Health Department.

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